

**Fiscal Year 2010/2011 Budget
Highlights and Goals**

COURT ADMINISTRATION

FY2010 Highlights

- McHenry County Court Services received a new case management system which is integrated with the ICIS system operated by the McHenry County Clerk of Court.
- A new Jury Coordinator was installed and there has been an increase in the use of technology and automation in an effort to reduce costs related to jurors.
- The court is in the process of implementing a drug court program. Eight individuals from the county participated in a five day, intensive training with the National Drug Court Institute. These individuals will provide leadership throughout the implementation process.
- The court has completed a long term strategic plan which projects caseload statistics based upon population growth in McHenry County. The plan looks forward 10 years.
- Completion of the Emergency Continuity of Operations Plan for the 22nd Judicial Circuit.
- The Law Librarian has done a stellar job at reducing the number of materials that are received in print which has resulted in a tremendous cost savings. More emphasis has been put on using electronic media which has helped reduce overall costs in the Law Library.
- The Pro Se Self Help Center was expanded and now has two part time employees that staff the center eight hours per day. This is a significant advantage to the citizens of McHenry County. The navigator assists individuals with various legal self-help websites such as; Prairie State Legal Services, Illinois Legal Aid, Northwestern Illinois University, etc. The self-help center has become a tremendous asset in insuring that individuals who cannot afford legal counsel have access to adequate resources.
- The McHenry County Mental Health Court Program (MHC) continued to provide necessary services to those individuals who suffer from a mental disease who are involved in the criminal justice system in McHenry County. The coordinator for the program has done outcome studies which show that those individuals who complete the program have far better outcomes. To date, no individual that has successfully completed the program has committed a new criminal offense.
- The MHC Program held two graduation ceremonies (January & July) with a total of 13 program graduates, currently the MHC program has an overall graduation rate from the program of 69%
- The MHC has partnered with Pioneer Center for Human Services to create a Group Home specifically for MHC participants in order to provide stable housing for individuals who are suffering from a mental illness.

FY2011 Goals

- Strengthen relationships with other departments and county board
- Review juror use and evaluate the advantages of moving to a policy of “one day – one jury” type of service. Such a service could reduce overall costs; however there would be an increase in workload and postage/printing costs. A full evaluation will need to be completed in order to determine if such a service is viable.
- Complete construction project of new a courtroom and judge’s chambers for two additional judges.
- Staff training to include; policy and procedure review, safety and security, emergency continuity of operations plan, etc.
- Explore case management practices which could reduce both the time to case disposition and overall costs.
- Evaluate the need for electronic material in lieu of printed material thus saving publication costs.
- Explore additional funding streams
- Establish a judicial library where one set of books for judicial use would be purchased and be kept. This would aid in the reduction of redundant purchases.
- Implement the 22nd Judicial Circuit Drug Court Program
- Increase the training of multi-department personnel who assist with the 22nd Judicial Circuit Drug Court Program
- Increase the graduation rate for participants in the Mental Health Court Program to 75%